

### **Remark**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claim 13 has been amended. Claims 32-33 have been cancelled. Claims 34-35 are new. Therefore, claims 1-31 and 34-35 are present for examination.

### **Restriction Requirement**

The Examiner has rejected claims 32 and 33 as being directed to a different invention. These claims are canceled. New Claims 34 and 35 do not relate to an equipment rack or a housing and are believed not to be subject to restriction. These claims contain primarily limitations found in other claims, originally filed, and are not believed to raise any new issues for search.

### **35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The limitation of "the call handle being generated by the switch independent of the caller's identity and any data received from the caller" is supported in the specification at paragraph 12. "The call handle is generated by the switch based on external or internal telephone or line numbers as a unique identifier of a particular call."

External telephone or line numbers are described at paragraph 16. "These [external numbers] are the telephone numbers that are dialed by a calling party in order to access the individual telephone ports 117 through the switch through the PSTN. The external numbers can access a general receptionist or can constitute direct lines to a particular subscriber." *data received  
from caller*

Internal telephone or line numbers are described at paragraph 17. "[E]ach individual telephone, computer modem, video conferencing center or other communications node, is assigned

a particular internal extension number. As mentioned above, these numbers may correspond to a particular wire connected to a telephone port at one end and to a telephone wall jack at another end or these internal numbers may be virtual extension numbers that are used to assign access to users in a less tangible way. So for example, with multiple users, each carrying PCU's, the channels assigned to each user may be virtual channels which correspond to frequencies, timeslots or codes that are dynamically allocated based on system usage. In this case, the internal extension number does not correspond to any fixed allocation of resources, but instead serves as an identification number for a particular communication unit."

The Examiner suggests that a call handle "independent of any data received from the caller" contradicts claims 17, 22 and 25, in which the call handle is generated as a set of in-band signaling tones. The Examiner suggests that these in-band signaling tones must be the same as any DTMF tones generated by a caller. However, there is no requirement in Claim 17, 22 nor 25 that the "in-band signaling tones" be generated by a caller. Rather the claims relate the generation of the "in-band signaling tones" to the generation of the call handle. This can be done at the switch or anywhere else.

While a caller may transmit a dialed telephone number as DTMF tones, in a standard PSTN system, these tones are typically processed at the CO and not sent from a CO through the PSTN to a destination PBX or telephone. The caller may also send DTMF tones to the voice mail system or switch in response to prompts. The corresponding data or selections may be stored in the call/call handle lookup table at the switch or the call handle lookup table at the voice mail system. The claims do not require that the caller's selections be stored in these tables as tones. It is more likely that the selections would be stored as digital data. However, as explained above, the call handle does not necessarily have any relationship to any tones received from a caller, even if other data in

the call/call handle lookup table does. In a preferred embodiment, the call handle is used as a pointer to the rest of the data in the tables. The rest of the data reflects the choices that a caller made using DTMF tones.

The Examiner has asked that each limitation of Claim 17 be related to the specification. Applicant does so in a spirit of cooperation to aid in advancing the prosecution of the application. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 17 in its original form is fully supported by the original application by virtue of its having been filed as a part of that application. In addition, the detailed description in the specification is not a substitute for Claim 17. The scope of Claim 17 is not intended to be limited by anything submitted in this amendment and remark.

Claim 17 is a method claim and is supported largely by Figures 3 and 4. It contains the following recitations:

"receiving an incoming call at a telephone switch" (para 28, lines 3-4)

"generating a call handle (para. 29, lines 1-2) independent of the caller's identity and any data received from the caller (para. 12, lines 2-3) as a set of in-band signaling tones (para. 20, lines 9-12) for the incoming call at the telephone switch"



"routing the incoming call to a port of a call handling system" (para. 29, lines 4-5)

"sending the call handle to the call handling system (para. 29, lines 5-6) as in-band signaling tones in association with the routed call"

"receiving a transfer of the routed call at the telephone switch from the call handling system" (para. 32, lines 3-4)

"re-routing the incoming call from the telephone switch back to a port of the call handling system" (para. 33, lines 1-2)

"sending the call handle as in-band signaling tones from the telephone switch to the call handling system in association with the re-routed call" (para. 33, lines 3-4).

### **35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection**

#### *Backaus et al.*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Backaus et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,459,779 ("Backaus"). This art-based rejection appears to ignore the amendments made upon filing the Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Applicant respectfully requests that the claims of the RCE be examined fully in light of the remarks submitted in Applicant's last paper filed July 31, 2003. These amendments and remarks are not repeated here.

### **Conclusion**

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims remain in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

### **Invitation for a Telephone Interview**

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

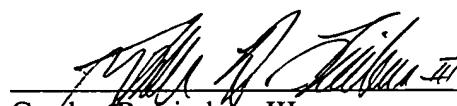
### **Request for an Extension of Time**

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension. Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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